



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Walter Williams
Acting Secretary
Department of Commerce
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

This is in reply to your letter of 11 September 1953 requesting the views of the Central Intelligence Agency in connection with the principle adopted by the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security that all United States aircrewmen engaged in international flights be subjected to security clearance.

Pertinent to the questions in your letter is the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency, by statute, is prohibited from exercising internal security functions. Accordingly, CIA does not have an interest in the security clearance of either international or other categories of United States aircrewmen. Additionally, it is not believed that the security clearance of persons in those categories would affect the functions of this Agency.

For your information, the Central Intelligence Agency forwards routinely to the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information received from overseas sources which relates to U. S. citizens and has a bearing on internal security.

If, in the future, this Agency can be of further assistance, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director